



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held September 14, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke:

“More than two million children, adults, and seniors in California suffer from serious mental illnesses such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. These debilitating mental health conditions cost Californians billions of dollars annually in healthcare expenses, lost work productivity, and preventable incarceration.

“Many mental health professionals and experts say that individuals can manage and recover from mental illnesses with the assistance of integrated prevention and intervention services that include outreach, counseling, self-help and support groups, and treatment. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has tried to put these best practices into place, but has had only limited success due to historic under-funding by the State. Unfortunately, this history of under-funding will be perpetuated in FY 2004-05 with the elimination of approximately \$20 million for the Children’s System of Care Program, which will result in the loss of \$4.8 million for mental health programs in Los Angeles County. The lack of sufficient funding will cause many children and adults to be less likely to receive the mental health services they require.

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“Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Expansion and Funding Initiative on the November 2 ballot, will provide funding for the expansion of mental health services by imposing a one percent tax on taxable income over \$1 million. This will yield over \$600 million a year for mental health services throughout the State. The initiative includes fiscal oversight and accountability requirements, a community-based mental health planning process, and workforce development activities to recruit, train, and retain mental health professionals.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Burke and Yaroslavsky; Noes: Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe, the Board endorsed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Expansion and Funding Initiative, which will provide funding for the expansion of mental health services by imposing a 1% tax on taxable income over \$1 million. In addition, the Board urged the voters of California to vote yes on this ballot measure on November 2, 2004.

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